
From: Lawler, Michael (DPH)
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 5:53 PM
To: Nassif, Julianne (DPH)
Cc: Salemi, Charles (DPH)
Subject: current status of drug lab biosafety status

Julie,

Today I inquired of our new chemist, Hevis whether she had been briefed on hepatitis exposure and the option of being vaccinated. She alerted me she hadn't, so I contacted Kathy Nawn to initiate the process. She alerted me that our new employee hadn't been highlighted for this consideration and that the drug lab may have had its status changed by a contractor evaluation presented to Dr. Han.

This certainly has implications for any new employee to the drug lab and I am concerned that this may have implications for any long term planning for the drug lab, if we have lost our status as a biosafety level two lab. Although we have dropped the analysis of needles and syringes per se, we still are exposed to:

- 1) fluids which police agencies have extracted from syringes
- 2) drug packages retrieved from suspects mouths which include saliva and blood lost in the seizure process
- 3) drug packages hidden in body cavities.

The most likely and highest level of exposure associated with these items would be hepatitis, which has historically placed us at the BSL 2 category. I am not privy to how any change in our status may effect long term planning for the drug lab as a facility. But this change in status has current and career implications for the present and future chemists in this lab.

Could we get a clarification regarding our current status?

Mike